

AUG 2 1964

MIL 4-09 Cuba

ORG 1: OAS

TRENDS

and SIGNIFICANCE

TIGHTEN GAMBIT by Cuba to ease OAS sanc-
tions, before they're applied next fortnight, could
backfire seriously in high-placed U. S. State Depart-
ment faces . . . arm GOP with

another slashing weapon for
Presidential campaign race—
"soft on Communism."

Gambit: Castro, taking page
from own successful "trade" of
Bay of Pigs prisoners for cash
and goods, would now offer free-
dom to "political" prisoners in
exchange for "concessions" from
West.

Castro's offer through "un-
official" Swiss businessman go-
between: 10,000 "lifers" (life, or
long-term prisoners) for U. S.
dollar purchase of up to 1-million

tons of raw sugar at world prices; 20,000 Isle-of-Pines
(indefinite term "political" prisoners) for American
Consular representation after U. S. elections; com-
mutation of all further death sentences (no more
firing squads) for "controlled" resumption of in-
dustrial trade.

Fact: Administration has sat on top-secret bid
for at least six weeks for fear of angering U. S. public
and Castro, in that order. Fear of angering Castro
stems from probability he'd launch blood bath if
spurned.